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BOOKS IN BRIEF

OPERATION SPLINTER FACTOR, by *Stewart Steven* (Lippincott, 249 pp., \$7.95). Allen Dulles, not Joseph Stalin, was primarily responsible for the Korean War. Steven's scenario unfolds in post-World War II Poland. A key Communist security officer seeks to defect to the West. British Intelligence is not interested. The Americans are. Dulles perceives the prize such a catch represents—the leadership of an emerging Central Intelligence Agency. And he has a score to settle with the Russians and an American Communist. The latter has just defected to Poland after using Dulles' OSS operation at war's end to plant Soviet agents throughout Eastern Europe. Dulles manipulates the Pole as a double agent to discredit the American as a CIA operative. Stalin launches purges that produce havoc in Eastern Europe as Communist leaders topple like dominoes. Korea becomes the necessary diversion and U.S.-Soviet relations steadily decline. Thank Dulles for this. And all this time we thought Stalin was the heavy.

ALAN MILLER